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Gang Raids A Hughes Office

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Los Angeles

Armed safecrackers operating with cool efficiency raided Howard Hughes' Hollywood office early yesterday, burning open two large safes, rifling personal files and escaping with about $60,000 in cash.

The gang bound, gagged and blindfolded a security guard and spent nearly four hours in Hughes Productions, a two-story, warehouse-like building.

The complex of offices is devoted to the billionaire industrialist's motion-picture interests and serves as a message and communication center for Hughes' personal affairs.

Yesterday's raid was the third time since the first of the year that a Hughes office has been robbed or burglarized, suggesting the possibility that the three incidents might be connected and part of a plan.

Police said Hughes representatives were not discussing what might have been in the personal files.